c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Efforts are being made to revamp the Post Office Savings Bank facility by computerizing the Savings Bank branches. In addition, customers of the Post Office Savings Bank as well as other customers of the Post Office are being offered access to financial services and products such as select mutual funds, bonds and warrant payment facility.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The tie-up envisages cooperation in various spheres like retailing of each other's financial products and services.

Outstanding Amount Against Radio Paging Licensees

888. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge outstanding amount to be paid to Government by radio paging licensees as licence fee agreed to as part of the contract for a protracted period of time;

(b) if so, the details thereof with licensee-wise data; and

(c) the course Government propose to pursue to recover this amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are in the Statement (*See* below)

(c) Steps have been taken by the Government to recover the license fee dues by sending notices, encashment of Bank Guarantees, termination of licensee and also by initiating Arbitration proceedings. The Radio Paging licensees were also offered a migration package for clearance of dues, which could not materialize. On the basis of Group on Telecom and Information Technology Convergence recommendations and the advice of the Learned Attorney General, the matter was referred to the Tariff Commission for an independent study of the viability of the Paging Industry. The report of the Tariff Commission was received on 05.02.2002 and is under examination by the Government. As regards the dues pertaining to

spectrum charges, no new frequency assignments or licenses are being granted to the defaulting companies, who have to clear their dues before obtaining any new license from the Government.

Statement

Details of Licence Fee and Spectrum charges outstanding

(Rs. in Crs.)

Sl. No.	Licensee	Service	Amount outstanding		
			Licence Fee	Spectrum Charges	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	M/s. Pagepoint	Radio Paging	—	0.07	0.07
2.	M/s. BPL wireless	-do-	—	0.37	0.37
3.	M/s. ABC	-do-	6.40	0.50	6.90
4.	M/s. Beltron	-do-	0.94	0.08	1.02
5.	M/s.India Paging	-do-	50.60	0.12	50.72
6.	M/s.DSS	-do-	10.38	3.60	13.98
7.	M/s.Eider PWI Com.	-do-	8.58	—	8.58
8.	M/s.Eider PWI Paging	-do-	17.33	—	17.33
9.	M/s.Easycall	-do-	4.81	0.45	5.26
10.	M/s.Matrix	-do-	10.42	0.79	11.21
11.	M/s. Microwave	-do-	19.51	0.80	20.31
12.	M/s. Modi Korea	-do-	8.04	1.66	9.70
13.	M/s. NICE	-do-	2.58	0.01	2.59
14.	M/s. RPG	-do-	5.98	2.11	8.09
15.	M/s. Telesistem	-do-	2.20	0.44	2.64

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	M/s. Punwire Mobile	Radio Paging	144.86	1.60	146.46
17.	M/s. Punwire Paging	-do-	34.47	0.33	34.80

Note: (a) In respect of the city Radio Paging Licensees, the license fee as revenue share from the fourth payment year onwards is also due.

(b) The outstanding dues are principal amounts due only, and interest is payable till the date of actual payment.

Cellular and WLL services in NER

889. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for alleged security consideration cellular and WLL services are being denied to the North-East;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that addressing security concern in the North-Eastern Region does contain a development dimension as well; and

(c) if so, whether Government would withdraw the denial of the said Telecom. Services to the North-Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Sir, the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) is operational, at present, in Guwahati and Shillong by M/s Reliance Telecom (P) Limited. Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) Service with fixed wireless terminals is operational, at present, in Guwahati by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). Government considers development of telecommunication infrastructure to be important for development of an area. However, expansion or fresh start of CMTS by Private Operators as well as BSNL as also further installation work for WLL Services is not permitted, at present, in the North-East and Assam Telecom Circles covering the North-Eastern States, on security considerations.